CIVIL WAR

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, is attacked outside a nightclub and beaten into a coma. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is debated, which would require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents.

One week later, the Act is passed. Any person with superhuman powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.

Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society, and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties. After being called upon to hunt down heroes in defiance of the Registration Act, Captain America goes underground and begins to form a resistance movement.

Spider-Man, who has allied himself with Iron Man and the pro-registration side, not only registers, but also unmasks as Peter Parker in front of the media.

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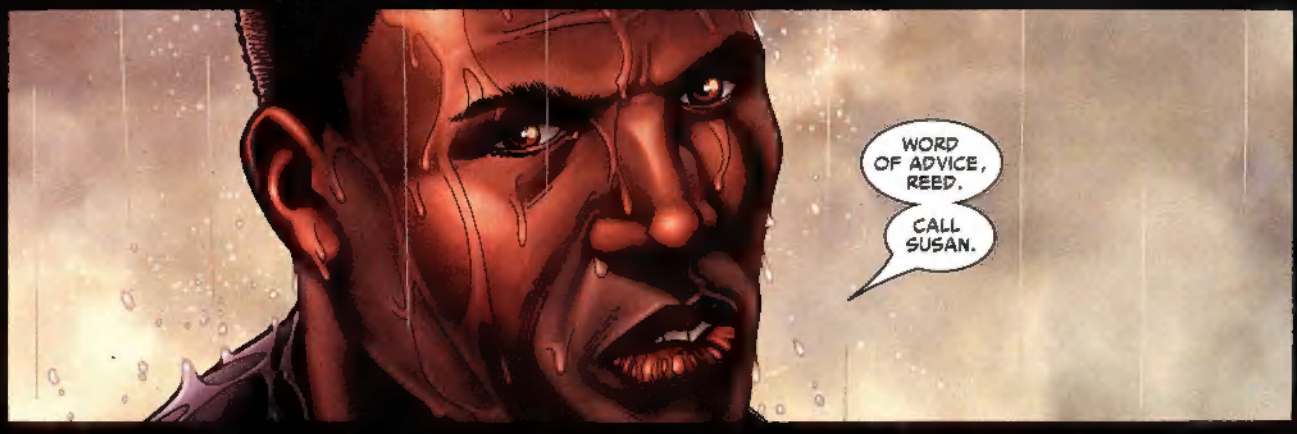
SOAK IT UP, PETER.
YOU'RE BIGGER THAN ELVIS NOW.
BBC
CNN
COMIC BOOK SPEAK

THE BLACK PANTHER, WAKANDA:
YOU UNMASKED SPIDER-MAN ON *LIVE TELEVISION?*
NO, PARKER UNMASKED *VOLUNTARILY,* T'CHALLA, BECAUSE IRON MAN EXPLAINED THE *GRAVITY* OF OUR SITUATION.
CONFIDENCE IN SUPER-HUMANS IS AT AN *ALL-TIME LOW.* STARK'S PLAN FOR A NEW BEGINNING IS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE LEFT.
A SUPER POLICE FORCE COVERING *ALL FIFTY STATES?* AND ME HELPING HIM HUNT DOWN THE SUPER HEROES WHO *DISAGREE* WITH IT?
I DON'T THINK SO, REED. WE DON'T LIKE IT WHEN AMERICA INTERFERES IN WAKANDAN AFFAIRS, AND I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE FEELING IS *RECIPROCATED.*
ACTUALLY, THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED THIS OF YOU *PERSONALLY...*
WELL, I'M AFRAID HE'S GOING TO BE *DISAPPOINTED.* NOW TELL ME: WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY STORM? IS THE HUMAN TORCH RECOVERING *WELL?*
I HAVEN'T CHECKED IN FOR A DAY OR TWO, BUT SUSAN'S BARELY LEFT HIS BEDSIDE. IF ANYTHING WAS WRONG, I'M SURE I'D HAVE *HEARD.*
I *LOVE* IT OUT HERE, DON'T YOU? THIS HIGH-TECH JUNGLE.
IT'S SO *EERIE* STANDING AMONG TREES WITHOUT *BIRDS* OR *INSECTS.*
I'VE ALWAYS MEANT TO ASK: DOES THE ECO-SYSTEM ADAPT ITSELF OR HAVE YOU MANIPULATED IT *ARTIFICIALLY?*


WORD OF ADVICE, REED.
CALL SUSAN.

Boston Star
CAP'S "SECRET AVENGERS" SMASH NEW SINISTER SIX PLOT

DOCTOR STRANGE, GREENWICH VILLAGE:
I'M SORRY, YELLOWJACKET, BUT THE MASTER SAID HE WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER SUPPORTING TONY STARK'S PLANS.
IN FACT, HE'S GONE INTO SECLUSION IN HIS ARCTIC LODGE IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT RESOLVE YOUR DIFFERENCES BY FASTING FOR FORTY NIGHTS.
WELL, HE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND US IF HE CHANGES HIS MIND, WONG.
DAMN WATCH ALWAYS SEEMS TO STOP WHEN I'M IN THIS STUPID HOUSE.

The Chronicler
TONY STARK PROMISES TO TACKLE SUPER-REBELS
JUST HOW MANY HEROES ARE IN HIS NEW TEAM?

THE X-MEN, WESTCHESTER:
THIS MUST BE THE FIRST TIME YOU AND I HAVE BEEN ALONE SINCE MARRAKESH, MISS FROST.
TELL ME: DOES CYCLOPS KNOW ABOUT THAT LITTLE ARRANGEMENT WE USED TO HAVE WHEN NEITHER OF US WERE DATING?
OH, CYCLOPS KNOWS EVERYTHING, TONY. HE CAN'T KEEP SECRETS FROM MY TELEPATHIC MIND, SO IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I DON'T KEEP ANYTHING FROM HIM.
MY. YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ASK. IS THERE ANY POINT IN VERBALIZING?
NOT ESPECIALLY. WE HAD A MEETING JUST LAST NIGHT AND DECIDED THAT HELPING YOU HUNT DOWN THESE ANTI-REGISTRATION REBELS WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF EVERYTHING THE X-MEN BELIEVE IN.

EVEN WITH NINETY-PERCENT *PUBLIC BACKING*? AND THAT *BOYFRIEND* OF YOURS SO KEEN TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE *WHITE HOUSE* AGAIN?
PERHAPS WE JUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE PERSECUTED WHILE YOU'RE *FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT*, MISTER STARK.
ASK THE MOMS AND DADS IN *STAMFORD* IF THEY THINK CAPTAIN AMERICA'S STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT.
OH, PLEASE. DON'T TRY TO BLACKMAIL ME WITH *GENOCIDE*. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO COMPARE NOTES?.
WHERE WERE THE AVENGERS WHEN *GENOSHA* DIED, IRON MAN?
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN *OUR* BABIES WERE BURNING?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF YOUR *STUDENTS*, EMMA. IS IT REALLY WISE TO PUT THEM ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?
OH, WE DON'T WANT A *FIGHT*, DARLING. WE'RE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO REMAIN ON THIS RESERVATION THEY'VE MADE FOR US. ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU LEAVE US ALONE AND, IN RETURN, YOU HAVE OUR WORD THAT WE WON'T JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR STAR-SPANGLED *FRIEND*.
YOUR CHOICE, MISTER STARK.
THEY COMING OVER, BOSS?
AFRAID NOT, HAPPY, BUT THEY'RE NOT JOINING CAP'S SIDE EITHER WHICH MEANS WE STILL HAVE A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF ACTUAL NUMBERS.
I SAY WE GO AHEAD WITH THE CONTAINMENT *AS PLANNED*. I WANT THOSE GUYS *NEUTRALIZED* BEFORE I GO PUBLIC WITH THE *FIFTY-STATE INITIATIVE*.
IRON MAN?
CAN WE *TALK*?

CAPTAIN AMERICA:
MY NAME IS BRETT HENDRICK, AND I'M A SECURITY SUPERVISOR AT A SHOPPING MALL IN QUEENS.
HERCULES:
I AM VICTOR TEGLER, AND I AM AN I.T. CONSULTANT FOR A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION.
DAREDEVIL:
MY NAME IS COOPER PEYTON, AND I'M AN ENGINEER FROM LONG ISLAND.
GOLIATH:
WHAT KIND OF NAME IS ROCKWELL DODSWORTH?
AND HOW THE HELL DID I END UP AS A COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER? I TOLD NICK FURY I WANTED TO BE SOMETHING COOL--LIKE AN ACTOR OR A RACE CAR DRIVER.
YOU THINK HE COULD MAYBE GET ME SOMETHING ELSE?

NO, WE TAKE WHATEVER NICK HAS TO *OFFER*, GOLIATH. BESIDES, THE SECRET I.D.S ARE JUST A PLACE TO GO TO GROUND WHEN WE AREN'T DOING THE *IMPORTANT STUFF*.
I'M ACTUALLY *GETTING INTO* THIS NEW SECRET IDENTITY THING. I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH NEW FAVORITE FOODS...NEW FAVORITE MOVIES...NEW FAVORITE BANDS...
WHAT ABOUT *SPIDER-MAN?* YOU BELIEVE TONY STARK TALKED HIM INTO JUST TAKING OFF HIS *MASK* LIKE THAT?
STRATEGICALLY, IT'S A BRILLIANT MOVE. NOBODY'S GUARDED HIS SECRET I.D. MORE THAN SPIDER-MAN, SO IT'S A POWERFUL MESSAGE FOR ALL THE COSTUMES STILL SITTING ON THE FENCE.
ARE YOU WELL, CAPTAIN? YOU SEEM A LITTLE *QUIET*.
JUST THINKING ABOUT AN APPOINTMENT I HAD TEN MINUTES AGO WITH A KID FROM THE "*MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION*".
I TOLD HIM WE'D PLAY BASEBALL IN HIS BACKYARD FOR A WHILE, BUT THE PLACE IS PROBABLY CRAWLING WITH *CAPE-KILLERS*.
BRRRRR BRRRRR
IT'S THE *LITTLE THINGS* THEY'VE STOLEN FROM US WITH THIS *REGISTRATION GARBAGE*.
THE LITTLE THINGS THAT *MAKE* US WHO WE *ARE*.

S'UP?
PETROCHEMICAL PLANT ON FIRE OVER BY THE HUDSON. BASE SAID THERE'S THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED TRAPPED INSIDE AND THEY'RE SENDING CLOAK AND DAGGER TO TELEPORT US DOWN.
KEEP THE CHANGE, MA'AM, AND THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL MEAL.
EMERGENCY DISTRESS CALLS, SNEAKING INTO ALLEYWAYS AND CHANGING INTO COSTUME...
...I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'M KINDA STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.
NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL:
NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S COOL CAP'S STILL FIGHTING SUPER-CRIME. WHAT'D BE COOL IS IF HE STOPPED BREAKING THE LAW.
WELL, I BET THE PEOPLE THEY RESCUED FROM THAT HIJACKED PLANE ARE GLAD CAP'S SECRET AVENGERS ARE STILL AROUND, DARLENE.
OH MY GOD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED, MISTER STORM? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP!
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE MY SISTER WENT?

GEFFEN-MEYER CHEMICALS
HOW MANY WORKERS DID THE RADIO SAY?
THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON HERE, CAPTAIN. I'M GETTING NOTHING OVER MY INFO-NET CONNECTION IN TERMS OF PANIC SIGNALS, OR...
WHAT'S WRONG, CABLE?
GEFFEN-MEYER
A DIVISION OF STARK INDUSTRIES
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, BOYS!
IT'S A TRAP!
CLOAK!
WICCAN!

OF COURSE IT'S A TRAP. HOW ELSE WERE WE GOING TO GET YOU ALL IN ONE PLACE?

WHAT THE HELL HAVE THEY *DONE* TO THEM, CAP? THEY'RE *OUT COLD!*

JUST A LITTLE TRANQUILIZER TO MAKE SURE NOBODY GETS TELEPORTED AWAY, KIDDO.

SKY-BIRD ONE, YOU GOT THESE GUYS IN YOUR SIGHTS?

READY WHEN *YOU* ARE, SPIDER-MAN. JUST GIVE THE *WORD.*

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER:

MARIA HILL TO ALL AIRBORNE AGENTS: YOU ARE ONLY THERE IN A *SUPPORT CAPACITY. HOLD YOUR FIRE AND AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS.*

YOUR PAYMASTERS GOING SOFT, TONY?
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO ARREST YOU, CAP. I TALKED S.H.I.E.L.D. INTO OFFERING YOU ONE FINAL AMNESTY.
YOU MEAN I SURRENDER?
THANKS, BUT I THINK I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES.
AW, C'MON. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WIN WHEN WE'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER THE BAD GUYS, BIG MAN. THIS GOES AGAINST EVERY PRINCIPLE YOU EVER BELIEVED IN.
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT PRINCIPLES, SPIDER-MAN. I SAW THAT LITTLE STUNT YOU PULLED ON TV. IS MARY JANE HAPPY ABOUT THE SANDMAN HAVING HER ZIP CODE NOW?
CAP, PLEASE. I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY. I KNOW IT'S AN ENORMOUS CHANGE FROM THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS WORKED, BUT WE AREN'T LIVING IN NINETEEN FORTY-FIVE ANYMORE.
THE PUBLIC DOESN'T WANT MASKS AND SECRET IDENTITIES. THEY WANT TO FEEL SAFE WHEN WE'RE AROUND, AND THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO WIN BACK THEIR RESPECT.
YOU'VE KNOWN ME HALF MY ADULT LIFE, CAP. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO THIS UNLESS I BELIEVED IN IT WITH ALL MY HEART.
WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU. JUST GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO TELL YOU OUR PLANS FOR MY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY OVERHAUL.

YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES.
FIVE MINUTES IS ALL I NEED...
ALL RIGHT! WAY TO GO, WING-TIPS! DIDN'T I SAY THIS WAS ALL GONNA WORK OUT FINE?
WHAT THE HELL?

IT'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. ELECTRON-SCRAMBLER. DEVELOPED BY NICK FURY'S TECH TEAM IN CASE YOU EVER WENT OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE.
AAAGH!
UNH!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN DOWN TWO OF MY BOYS, TONY.
HEAD FOR THE WATER!
GO!!
HANK, PLEASE! WE CAN DO THIS WITHOUT YOU HAVING TO GROW--!

HURRK!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SMART, BILL.
CONTROL TO AIRBORNE: DO NOT GET INVOLVED UNLESS PERIMETER IS BREACHED.
"CODENAME LIGHTNING" IS UP NEXT. I REPEAT, HOLD YOUR FIRE UNTIL IRON MAN GIVES THE GO-AHEAD.
I DON'T WANNA FIGHT YOU GUYS, HULKLING! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST DO LIKE YOU'RE TOLD, HUH?
UNGH!

YOW.
CAREFUL, CAP. YOU COULD TAKE A GUY'S EYE OUT WITH THAT THING...
...LIKE THESE POOR SCHMUCKS, FOR INSTANCE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHERE'D HE GO?
SPIDER-MAN'S WEARING A NEW SUIT STARK DESIGNED, PATRIOT: BULLET-PROOF, GLIDE-FUNCTION AND STEALTH-MODE...

CAPTAIN! BEWARE!
NGH!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, STEVE...
...THIS ARMOR HAS RECORDED EVERY PUNCH YOU'VE EVER THROWN.
IT KNOWS YOUR NEXT MOVE BEFORE YOU DO...

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FILTHY TRAITORS! HE'S KILLING HIM IN THERE!
HOLD ON, CAPTAIN! I'M COMING!
FIVE HUNDRED MORE CAPE-KILLERS UNITS SURROUNDING THE PERIMETER, COMMANDER. AWAITING FURTHER ORDERS.
HOLD THEM ON STANDBY. "CODENAME LIGHTNING" HAS FIRST PASS AT THIS...

WHAT THE HELL--?
MY GOD...

TO BE
CONTINUED...